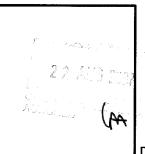
PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 22/08/2007

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No. PCT/GB2007/001973

Applicant's or agent's file reference

CARPMAELS & RANSFORD

Attn. Tunstall, C.S.

London WC1A 2RA GRANDE BRETAGNE

43-45 Bloomsbury Square

International filing date (day/month/year)

29/05/2007

Applicant

P043972WO

GILAG GMBH INTERNATIONAL

| 1. X | The application Authority h | ant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching ave been established and are transmitted herewith. |
|------|-----------------------------|---|
| | | mendments and statement under Article 19: ant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46): |
| | When? | The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report. |
| | Where? | Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes |

1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Fascimile No.: (41-22) 338.82.70 For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

| 2. | The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under |
|----|---|
| | Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith |
| | |

3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

| | the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices. |
|---------------|--|
| $\overline{}$ | no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made. |

4 Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the PCT Applicant's Guide, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Josephina Tschuck

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims,description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

| Applicant's or agent's file reference | FOR FURTHER | see Form PCT/ISA/220 | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| P043972WO | | well as, where applicable, item 5 below. | | | | | |
| International application No. | International filing date (day/month/year) | (Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) | | | | | |
| PCT/GB2007/001973 | 29/05/2007 | 01/06/2006 | | | | | |
| Applicant | | | | | | | |
| атгъа омен тыперылетомат. | | | | | | | |
| GILAG GMBH INTERNATIONAL | | | | | | | |
| This international search report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra | prepared by this International Searching A ansmitted to the International Bureau. | Authority and is transmitted to the applicant | | | | | |
| This international search report consists o | of a total of sheets. | | | | | | |
| X It is also accompanied by | a copy of each prior art document cited in | this report. | | | | | |
| Basis of the report | | | | | | | |
| | international search was carried out on the | | | | | | |
| | application in the language in which it was to the international application into | | | | | | |
| | rnished for the purposes of international se | | | | | | |
| b. With regard to any nucleo | otide and/or amino acid sequence disclo | sed in the international application, see Box No. I. | | | | | |
| 2. Certain claims were foun | nd unsearchable (See Box No. II) | | | | | | |
| 3. Unity of invention is lack | king (see Box No III) | | | | | | |
| 4. With regard to the title , | | | | | | | |
| the text is approved as su | bmitted by the applicant | | | | | | |
| | shed by this Authority to read as follows: | | | | | | |
| INDECLION DEATCE MILH | SYRINGE CARRIER ENGAGEMEN | IT WITH CAP | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| 5. With regard to the abstract , | | | | | | | |
| X the text is approved as sul | | | | | | | |
| the text has been establish may, within one month fro | ned, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Auti m the date of mailing of this international s | hority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant search report, submit comments to this Authority | | | | | |
| 6. With regard to the drawings, | 6. With regard to the drawings , | | | | | | |
| a. the figure of the drawings to be pr | sublished with the abstract is Figure No. $\underline{3}$ | | | | | | |
| X as suggested by the | he applicant | | | | | | |
| | s Authority, because the applicant failed to | | | | | | |
| | s Authority, because this figure better chara | acterizes the invention | | | | | |
| b none of the figures is to be | e published with the abstract | | | | | | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No PCT/GB2007/001973

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER INV. A61M5/32 A61M5/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A61M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data

| **** | ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | |
|-----------|---|-----------------------|
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | EP 0 857 491 A (RHONE POULENC RORER GMBH [DE]) 12 August 1998 (1998-08-12) | 1-3,6,8, 13-15 |
| Α | figures 1-9 column 27, line 49 | 4,7,9-12 |
| X | GB 2 414 398 A (CILAG AG INTERNAT [CH]) 30 November 2005 (2005-11-30) figures 1-8 page 5, line 12 - page 10, line 25 | 1,2,5,8, 13-15 |
| X | WO 99/03529 A (OWEN MUMFORD LTD [GB]; CROSSMAN DAVID DANVERS [GB]; MARSHALL JEREMY [G) 28 January 1999 (1999-01-28) figures 1-7 page 4, line 18 - page 8, line 21 | 1,2,15 |
| | -/ | |

| X Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. | X See patent family annex. |
|---|--|
| * Special categories of cited documents: *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filling date *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means *P* document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed | 'T' later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'X' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. '&' document member of the same patent family |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search 14 August 2007 | Date of mailing of the international search report 22/08/2007 |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA/ European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nt, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Authorized officer Reinbold, Sylvie |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2007/001973

| | and the second s | PCT/GB2007/001973 |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| C(Continua | ation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | |
| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| (, P (| WO 2007/047200 A (LILLY CO ELI [US]; JAMES ADRIAN BENTON [US]; LISTER ROBERT IAN [GB]; M) 26 April 2007 (2007-04-26) figures 1-33 page 6, line 3 - page 26, line 7; claim 9 | 1-7, 13-15 |
| | | |

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/GB2007/001973

| Patent document cited in search report | | Publication date | | Patent family member(s) | Publication date | |
|---|---|------------------|--|---|--|--|
| EP 0857491 | A | 12-08-1998 | AU BR CA CZ DE HU JP NO NZ US ZA | 1266397 A 9700930 A 2197395 A1 9700415 A3 19705189 A1 9700427 A2 10225516 A 970606 A 314211 A 6090070 A 9701138 A | 20-08-1998 08-12-1998 12-08-1998 12-08-1998 13-08-1998 28-06-1999 25-08-1998 11-08-1998 28-01-1999 18-07-2000 11-08-1998 | |
| GB 2414398 | Α | 30-11-2005 | NONE | | | |
| WO 9903529 | A | 28-01-1999 | DE DE DE DE EP EP JP US US | 69822160 D1 69822160 T2 69829787 D1 69829787 T2 1364667 A2 0996473 A2 2001512038 T 2003093036 A1 7066907 B2 | 08-04-2004 30-12-2004 19-05-2005 09-03-2006 26-11-2003 03-05-2000 21-08-2001 15-05-2003 27-06-2006 | |
| WO 2007047200 | Α | 26-04-2007 | NONE | | | |

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

| То: | | | : | | PCT | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| see form PCT/ISA/220 | | | V / . | WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORIT (PCT Rule 43 <i>bis</i> .1) | | |
| | | | | Date of mailin | | |
| | or agent's file PCT/ISA/2 | | | FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below | | |
| | al application 007/00197 | | national filing date (d | ⊥day/month/year) | Priority date (day/month/year) 01.06.2006 | |
| Applicant | M5/32 A61 MBH INTE | M5/20 RNATIONAL | | | | |
| 1. This | opinion co | entains indications re | lating to the follo | owing items: | | |
| ⊠ B | Box No. I | Basis of the opinion | | | | |
| □B | ox No. II | Priority | | | | |
| □в | ox No. III | Non-establishment of | opinion with rega | ard to novelty, i | nventive step and industrial applicability | |
| □в | lox No. IV | Lack of unity of inven | tion | | · | |
| | | under Rule 43 <i>bis</i> and explanations | .1(a)(i) with reg supporting su | gard to novelty, inventive step or industrial ch statement | | |
| _ | ox No. VI | Certain documents ci | ted | | | |
| | ox No. VII | Certain defects in the | | | | |
| IJB | ox No. VIII | Certain observations | on the internation | al application | | |
| 2. FUR | THER ACT | ON | | | | |
| lf a d | en opinion o | f the International Preli | minary Examining | Authority ("IP | ion will usually be considered to be a EA") except that this does not apply where nd the chosen IPEA has notifed the | |
| the a Interr | pplicant cho national Bur ot be so coi | eau under Rule 66.1 <i>bi</i> . | er than this one to | be the IPEA a pinions of this | International Searching Authority | |
| the a Interr will n If this subm from | national Bur ot be so con s opinion is, nit to the IPE | eau under Rule 66.1 <i>bi</i> . nsidered. as provided above, co A a written reply toget mailing of Form PCT/IS | er than this one to s(b) that written of nsidered to be a v her, where appro | pinions of this liver opinion or | of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to endments, before the expiration of 3 months f 22 months from the priority date, | |
| the a Interr will n If this subm from which | national Bur ot be so con s opinion is, nit to the IPE the date of never expire | eau under Rule 66.1 <i>bi</i> . nsidered. as provided above, co A a written reply toget mailing of Form PCT/IS | er than this one to s(b) that written on sidered to be a vider, where appropriately 20 or before to | pinions of this liver opinion or | International Searching Authority of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to endments, before the expiration of 3 months | |
| the a Interr will n If this subm from which | national Bur ot be so con s opinion is, it to the IPE the date of never expire urther option | eau under Rule 66.1 <i>bi.</i> insidered. as provided above, co A a written reply toget mailing of Form PCT/IS is later. | er than this one to s(b) that written on sidered to be a value, where appropriately or before the second or before | pinions of this liver opinion or | International Searching Authority of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to endments, before the expiration of 3 months | |
| the a Interr will n If this subm from which For fu | national Bur ot be so con s opinion is, it to the IPE the date of never expire urther option | eau under Rule 66.1 <i>bi</i> .nsidered. as provided above, co A a written reply toget mailing of Form PCT/IS is later. as, see Form PCT/ISA/ s, see notes to Form P | er than this one to s(b) that written on sidered to be a vector where appropriately ap | pinions of this liver opinion or | International Searching Authority of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to endments, before the expiration of 3 months | |
| the a Interr will n If this subm from which For fu | national Bur ot be so con s opinion is, it to the IPE the date of never expire urther option urther detail | eau under Rule 66.1 <i>bi</i> . as provided above, co A a written reply toget mailing of Form PCT/IS s later. as, see Form PCT/ISA/. s, see notes to Form P | er than this one to s(b) that written on sidered to be a vector where appropriately ap | prinions of this vritten opinion oriate, with among the expiration of | International Searching Authority of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to endments, before the expiration of 3 months f 22 months from the priority date, | |
| the a Interr will n If this subm from which For fu | national Bur ot be so con s opinion is, it to the IPE the date of never expire urther option urther detail | eau under Rule 66.1 bit insidered. as provided above, co in | er than this one to s(b) that written on sidered to be a wher, where appropriately or before the control of the | prinions of this overthe opinion or | International Searching Authority of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to endments, before the expiration of 3 months f 22 months from the priority date, | |

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/GB2007/001973

| _ | | | | | | | |
|----|--|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Во | x N | o. I Basis of the opinion | | | | |
| 1. | Wit | h re | egard to the language , this opinion has been established on the basis of: | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | a t pu | ranslation of the international application into , which is the language of a translation furnished for the rposes of international search (Rules 12.3(a) and 23.1 (b)). | | | | |
| 2. | With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of: | | | | | | |
| | a. t | ype | of material: | | | | |
| | | | a sequence listing | | | | |
| | | | table(s) related to the sequence listing | | | | |
| | b. format of material: | | | | | | |
| | | | on paper | | | | |
| | | | in electronic form | | | | |
| | c. time of filing/furnishing: | | | | | | |
| | | | contained in the international application as filed. | | | | |
| | 1 | | filed together with the international application in electronic form. | | | | |
| | | | furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search. | | | | |
| 3. | | ha: | addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto s been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional pies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as propriate, were furnished. | | | | |
| 4. | Add | ditio | nal comments: | | | | |

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No. PCT/GB2007/001973

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Yes: Claims

4,7,9-12

No: Claims

1-3,5-6,8,13-15

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: Claims

No: Claims

<u>1-15</u>

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes: Claims

<u>1-15</u>

No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)

and / or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: GB-A-2 414 398 D2: EP-A-0 857 491 D3: WO 99/03529

D4: WO 2007/047200

Novelty Article 33(2) PCT

- 2. The present application does not appear to meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of **claims 1-3,5,6,8 and 13-15** is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
- 2.1. The document D1 discloses an injection device (figures 1-9) comprising:
 - a housing (4) adapted to receive a syringe (8) having a reservoir and a discharge nozzle (19), so that the syringe is movable between a retracted position (fig.7) in which the discharge nozzle is contained within the housing and an extended position (column 24 line 39 column 25 line 10) in which the discharge nozzle extends from the housing through an exit aperture
 - a drive (38+37) that acts upon the syringe to advance it from its retracted position to its extended position and discharge its contents through the discharge nozzle
 - a removable cap (18)
 - a syringe carrier (24) for carrying the syringe as it is advanced
 - wherein the removable cap (18) is adapted to restrict movement of the syringe carrier in a direction towards the exit aperture when the removable cap is connected to the housing (fig.7)

Therefore the subject matter of claim 1 is not novel over document D1.

2.2. Furthermore the technical features of claims 2,3,6,8 and 13-15 are also shown by document D1.

2.3. Finally documents D2-D3 also disclose the technical features of claims 1-2,5,8 and 13-15.

Document D2: - fig.1-8, a housing (112), a syringe (114), a drive (132), a removable

cap (111) is adapted to restrict the movement of the syringe carrier

(127) (page 9 line 26-28)

Document D3: - fig.1-7, a housing (7), a syringe (12), a drive (14), a removable cap

(26) is adapted to restrict the movement of the syringe carrier (12) (fig.1-

2)

Inventive Step Article 33(3) PCT

3. The present application does not appear to meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of **claims 4,7 and 9-12** does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

The subject-matter of claims 4,7 and 9-12 differs from this known injection device of Document D1 in that:

- the first interface and the second interface each comprise a planar surface
- the annular component is adapted to grip a removable shield on the discharge nozzle of the syringe
- a sliding sleeve and at least one locking arm which is engageable with the annular protrusion

However, in these claims a slight constructional change in the injection device of claim 1 is defined which comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the subject-matter of these claims also lacks an inventive step.

Re Item VI

Certain documents cited

Having regards to Rule 64.3 and 70.10 PCT it is hereby indicated that the document WO2007/047200 (D4) has a publication date of 26.04.2007 and a priority date of 11.10.2005. It appear that document D4 take away the novelty of claims 1-7 and 13-15. The applicant is asked to explain the difference between the application and the explicit

and implicit of the disclosure of Document D4.

Re Item VII

Certain defects in the international application

- 1. Independent claim 1 is not in the **two-part form** in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D3) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(I) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
- 2. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
- 3. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the **relevant background** art disclosed in the documents D1-D3 are not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.
- 4. Claim 15 contain a reference to the drawings. According to Rule 6.2(a) PCT, claims should not contain such references except where absolutely necessary, which is not the case here.
- 5. The applicant is requested to file amendments by way of replacement pages in the manner stipulated by Rule 66.8(a) PCT. In particular, fair copies of the amendments should be filed preferably in triplicate.
 - Moreover, the applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, as a consequence of Rule 66.8(a) PCT the examiner is not permitted to carry out any amendments under the PCT procedure, however minor these may be.

Possible steps after receipt of the international search report (ISR) and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA)

General information

For all international applications filed on or after 01/01/2004 the competent ISA will establish an ISR. It is accompanied by the WO-ISA. Unlike the former written opinion of the IPEA (Rule 66.2 PCT), the WO-ISA is not meant to be responded to, but to be taken into consideration for further procedural steps. This document explains about the possibilities.

under Art. 19 PCT

Amending claims Within 2 months after the date of mailing of the ISR and the WO-ISA the applicant may file amended claims under Art. 19 PCT directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. The PCT reform of 2004 did not change this procedure. For further information please see Rule 46 PCT as well as form PCT/ISA/220 and the corresponding Notes to form PCT/ISA/220.

Filing a demand for international preliminary examination

In principle, the WO-ISA will be considered as the written opinion of the IPEA. This should, in many cases, make it unnecessary to file a demand for international preliminary examination. If the applicant nevertheless wishes to file a demand this must be done before expiry of 3 months after the date of mailing of the ISR/WO-ISA or 22 months after priority date, whichever expires later (Rule 54bis PCT). Amendments under Art. 34 PCT can be filed with the IPEA as before, normally at the same time as filing the demand (Rule 66.1 (b) PCT).

If a demand for international preliminary examination is filed and no comments/amendments have been received the WO-ISA will be transformed by the IPEA into an IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) which would merely reflect the content of the WO-ISA. The demand can still be withdrawn (Art. 37 PCT).

Filing informal comments

After receipt of the ISR/WO-ISA the applicant may file informal comments on the WO-ISA directly with the International Bureau of WIPO. These will be communicated to the designated Offices together with the IPRP (International Preliminary Report on Patentability) at 30 months from the priority date. Please also refer to the next box.

End of the international phase

At the end of the international phase the International Bureau of WIPO will transform the WO-ISA or, if a demand was filed, the written opinion of the IPEA into the IPRP, which will then be transmitted together with possible informal comments to the designated Offices. The IPRP replaces the former IPER (international preliminary examination report).

Relevant PCT Rules and more information

Rule 43 PCT, Rule 43bis PCT, Rule 44 PCT, Rule 44bis PCT, PCT Newsletter 12/2003, OJ 11/2003, OJ 12/2003